

worked together in an entirely bipartisan manner. Last month, they introduced the Wounded Warriors bill, which was entered as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill. The Wounded Warrior amendment addresses the substandard facilities, which we have all read about and have visited, such as Walter Reed, and the lack of seamless transition when medical care for troops is transferred from the Department of Defense to the Veterans' Administration, which often leads to diminished care.

The legislation also looks at the inadequacy of severance pay to help those who have sacrificed so much already to support their families while they recover, and the need to improve sharing of medical records between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It addresses the inadequate care and treatment for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress syndrome by authorizing \$50 million for improved diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation. We saw this problem highlighted, as I have indicated, in the morning news. There are a number of stories about that, but the main story is in the L.A. Times, which cited a report by a special Pentagon task force showing that 38 percent of soldiers and 50 percent of National Guard members come home from Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health issues. Yet only 27 of these 1,400 VA hospitals have inpatient post-traumatic stress disorder programs.

Finally, the Wounded Warrior legislation provides support for wounded troops whose health insurance programs, such as the TRICARE program for retired veterans, have allowed gaps in medical coverage and treatment.

In the next few days, I intend to take the Wounded Warrior amendment from the Defense authorization bill—there were additions made to that from the time it left committee—and I will seek unanimous consent that we pass it now. The rest of it, with rare exception in the Defense authorization bill, if we passed it yesterday, wouldn't kick in until the beginning of the fiscal year. But the Wounded Warrior amendment legislation becomes law upon passage and approval. I hope we can do that. This would make these provisions immediately effective when the President signs this. Given the immediate care these people need, and the immediate need to act on the Wounded Warrior amendment, which has overwhelming bipartisan support, I am hoping we can all work together to pass it before we leave here. If we have to do it by unanimous consent, I hope we can do that.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, to pick up on some of the observations of the majority leader, bipartisan accomplishments have been altogether too rare this year, but we do have an opportunity here in the next 2 weeks, as he has indicated, to do some good work on a bipartisan basis, and a good example of that will be later this morning.

I commend Senator KENNEDY, and particularly Senator ENZI, for their leadership on this higher education bill. That is a classic example of how we ought to operate more often in the Senate, and I hope we will reach that high standard more frequently for the balance of the year.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S GLORIOUS FABRIC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, from America's earliest days, bravery has been essential. A group of courageous farmers were the first to stand against the British. The Declaration of Independence was a death warrant for anyone who signed it. The Constitutional Convention took place in a shuttered room. The Founders were brave, and they knew bravery would be needed to maintain what they had built. As Washington wrote when the veterans of 1776 began to pass away:

Thus some of the pillars of the revolution fall. May our country never want props to support the glorious fabric.

We remember today two men who supported the glorious fabric of our country. Jacob Joseph Chestnut and John Gibson gave their lives on a Friday afternoon while standing sentry at the gates of this great citadel of liberty. The Chambers had fallen silent for the week, staffers were celebrating the passage of a law, tourists were studying old plaques, and the President was getting ready for a weekend trip to his camp when a madman pierced the calm routine of daily life in Washington, and a brave grandfather and young father stood strong against him.

Their heroism was duplicated by the Senator-surgeon who tried to keep the killer and his victims alive, by the British tourist who rushed to one of the victims' side to hear his last words, by the horde of officers who rushed the gunman. When the flags fell, thousands of Americans called the Capitol to grieve. Thousands more showed up to mourn the fallen officers and to honor the ideals they died for. An act of savagery had roused a nation to mercy and compassion. It was an instinct we would see again on an even darker day 3 years later.

We are grateful for the lives of these good men and for their sacrifice. They were not sunshine patriots. They were brave Americans who stood their ground, as Americans so often do, to ensure that the ceremony of freedom would go on. It does. It will. And they will not be forgotten.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1642, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1642) to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Coburn amendment No. 2369, to certify that taxpayers' dollars and students' tuition support educational rather than lobbying activities.

Kennedy amendment No. 2381 (to amendment No. 2369), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Massachusetts is recognized for 10 minutes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2381, AS MODIFIED

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have a modification to my amendment that is at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be modified.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2381), as modified, is as follows:

Strike all after the first word, and insert the following:

— DEMONSTRATION AND CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE USE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No Federal funds received by an institution of higher education or other postsecondary educational institution may be used to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any Federal action described in subsection (b).

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibition in subsection (a) applies with respect to the following Federal actions:

(1) The awarding of any Federal contract.

(2) The making of any Federal grant.

(3) The making of any Federal loan.

(4) The entering into of any Federal cooperative agreement.

(5) The extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(c) LOBBYING AND EARMARKS.—No Federal student aid funding may be used to hire a registered lobbyist or pay any person or entity for securing an earmark.

(d) DEMONSTRATION AND CERTIFICATION.—Each institution of higher education or other postsecondary educational institution receiving Federal funding, as a condition for receiving such funding, shall annually demonstrate and certify to the Secretary of Education that the requirements of subsections (a) through (c) have been met.

(e) ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE.—The Secretary of Education shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the provisions of this section are vigorously implemented and enforced.